most melancholy description, has been laid before your committee, shewing the neglected and imperfect state of the sewerage, paving, and cleansing in many parts of London inhabited chiefly by the working classes; and similar evidence applies with more or less force to many other great towns, the state of which has been investigated, as Dublin, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Bradford, &c.

Your committee do not wish to go here into details as to the miserable and neglected state of the dwellings of the poorer classes in various districts of the metropolis and other large towns, but refer to the evidence for that purpose, in which statements of the most melancholy and appalling nature will be found. It will there be seen, that the sewerage, draining, and cleansing is (in many places inhabited by dense masses of the working classes) greatly neglected; that the most necessary precautions to preserve their health in many cases appear to have been forgotten; that, in consequence, fevers and other disorders of a contagious and fatal nature are shewn to prevail to a very alarming extent, causing wide-spread misery among the families of the sufferers, often entailing weakness and prostration of strength among the survivors; and becoming the source of great expense to the parishes and more opulent classes.

On these points your committee would refer to the evidence of Dr. Arnott, Dr. Southwood Smith, Mr. F. Moseley, and Messrs. J. Miller, Wagstaffe, Evans, J. Clarke, J. Wood Wilkes, K. White, Walker, &c. Many details will be found in the testimony of these gentlemen well worthy the attention of the legislature, and exemplifying the severe and extensive evils borne by the humbler classes from neglect of proper sanatory regulations and precautions.

Your committee would also refer to the valuable report of Dr. Arnott and Dr. Kay on the sanitory state of the labouring classes before alluded to, the substance of which has been verified before them on examination. They cannot refrain from quoting a few lines from a paper laid before them by Dr. Southwood Smith, whose valuable evidence on the state of several districts of the east of London will be found well worth perusal. It is headed, "Abstract of a Report on the Prevalence of Fever in Twenty Metropolitan Unions, during the year 1838," and is printed in the appendix.

Dr. Smith (who has personally inspected the districts alluded to) shews by returns stated, that in 20 metropolitan unions, giving nearly 14,000 cases of fever, above 9,000 were "afforded by seven of the unions only, namely, Whitechapel, Lambeth, Stepney, St. George-the-Martyr, Bethnal-green, Holborn, and St. George-in-the-East." These are at once the most populous and the poorest districts; and it is here that fever is "constantly committing its ravages. It is utterly impossible for any description to convey to the mind an adequate conception of the filthy and poisonous condition in which large portions of all these districts constantly remain."

F.

(*To be continued.*)

THE ANCIENT ROMAN WALL.—In the course of excavations which are making adjoining Sir J. Cass's charity, to the east of St. Botolph's, Aldgate, the workmen came on the foundation of the ancient Roman wall, at a depth from the surface of about 15 feet, which was of the usual strength and width. The portion discovered was built upon a solid brick foundation, strongly cemented together. The bricks were in a condition apparently as perfect as when they were originally laid down. A short time ago another part of the same wall was discovered, at a similar depth, in Duke-street, Houndsditch, from which it appears that it passes across the lower end of Houndsditch, under the burial ground of the church of St. Botolph. A quantity of fused metal, which is supposed to have been melted in the fire of London, was discovered among the earth. There was a depth of made earth of from 15 to 20 feet, which was of a fine loamy quality. It is supposed that when the Tower ditch was excavated that a large quantity of the soil was brought there. The same sort of soil is found in many other parts adjoining London-wall, leading to the site where Winchester-house formerly stood. The ground is being dug for a sewer, and there is a depth of about 20 feet of made earth.

BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION OF AGED AND INFIRM CARPENTERS.

THE half-yearly meeting of the subscribers and friends to the Benevolent Institution for the Relief of Aged and Infirm Carpenters was held at Radley's Hotel, Bridge-street, Blackfriars, on Monday, April 8, 1844, Thomas Grissell, Esq., vice-president, in the chair.

The minutes of the last annual meeting having been confirmed, Mr. W. Wood, the secretary, read the report, which stated that the institution was in a prosperous condition, having at the present at the banker's 131*l.* 10*s.*, and in the treasurer's hands 35*l.* 10*s.*, being an increase on the funds of upwards of 30*l.* within the last six months. Mr. Shunell, Jun. moved that it be received and adopted, which being seconded by Mr. Munyard, was carried.

Mr. T. W. Tomkins moved a vote of thanks to Messrs. J. Holtzaffell, J. Buck, Moseley & Son, Huntsman, and Cox, toolmakers, for their kind support of the institution, and that they be requested to urge others to do likewise; carried.

Mr. W. Wood was then elected one of the directors in the room of Mr. Burrill, deceased.

Mr. W. Wood having addressed the meeting in a feeling manner, proposed an active canvass for increasing the funds of the institution; which proposal Mr. H. T. Munyard seconded, and added there was only one thing that the directors had in view in not calling meetings oftener, and that was the expense attending such meetings. Carried.

Resolved unanimously, that the directors do form themselves into missionaries, and call meetings in various parts of London, at least once a month.

The chairman, in putting the motion, said that as the subscribers had found fault with the expense, they might put his name down for 5*l.* towards that object.

Mr. Shunell, Jun., moved, and Mr. T. W. Tomkins seconded, that a vote of thanks be given to Thomas Grissell, Esq., for his kindness in taking the chair on this occasion.

The meeting then separated.

APPENDIX TO THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE SOCIETY OF MASTER CARPENTERS.

Alterations recommended by the Committee to be made in the New Buildings' Bill.

Page 16, *sec.* 21, *line* 31.—Instead of the word "*six*" the word "*three*" to be inserted.

Page 17, *sec.* 22, *line* 14; *and page* 19, *sec.* 25, *line* 14.—The same alteration.

Page 20, *sec.* 27, *line* 2.—After the word "operations" an insertion of the words "or sooner, with the consent of the adjoining owner."

Page 24, *sec.* 37, *line* 33.—At the conclusion of this section, the addition of "*or on so much of the adjoining land as may be directed by the official referees.*" This would prevent a litigious withholding of permission to build or rebuild.

Page 27, *sec.* 42, *line* 43.—The words "*be deemed by the surveyor to*" ought to be taken out, leaving to be proved the danger of falling.

Page 34, *sec.* 51, *line* 33.—The word "*first*" ought to be altered to "*fifth.*"

Page 34, *sec.* 51, *line* 34. — The words "*already built of*" ought to be taken out, and the words "*to be*" inserted between "*hereafter*" and the word "*built.*"

Page 34, *sec.* 51, *line* 37.—Schedule I. ought to be K.

Page 34, *sec.* 51, *lines* 38, 42.—From the word "nor" to the word "room" ought to be taken entirely out, or very great injustice will be done to owners and occupiers of thousands of houses of all rates and classes, but most especially of the third and fourth rates under the present Act, and with but very problematical benefit to the parties occupying rooms, although the area thereof may be a little more or less than one square.

Page 46, *sec.* 75, *line* 26.—This section relates to the appointment of referees, and the committee think that the word "*two*" ought to be taken out, and the words "*not less than three*" be inserted; they would also suggest that after the words "*being architects*" that the words "*or other competent persons*" ought to be inserted, by this insertion extending the appointment of the Home Secretary to all persons who may, from their practical knowledge, be competent to fill the office.

Page 54, *sec.* 97, *line* 13.—The committee object generally to informations by common informers; they therefore suggest that the words "*any party*" be taken out, and at that place be inserted the words "*the surveyor of the district.*"

Page 54, *sec.* 97, *line* 15.—The word "surveyor" be inserted for the word "person."

Page 54, *sec.* 97, *line* 16.—The words "*the amount*" to be taken out, and instead thereof the words "*a moiety*" be inserted, and, at the end of the section, the following words to be added, "*and the other moiety to the poor of the parish in which the offence is committed.*"

Page 58, *sec.* 97, *line* 16.—Power ought to be given to the official referees to take evidence upon oath.

APPENDIX, NO. 2.

The Schedules or Second Part of the proposed Bill.

SCHEDULE A.—*Bottom line*—3 & 4 Vict. ch. 85, 1840.—This provision or enactment ought to be relaxed so far as to permit boys duly licensed, and not less than 14 years of age, to cleanse chimneys, by climbing, as formerly, the sweeping by machinery being, in many cases, very imperfect and likely to cause much damage to the flues.

SCHEDULE C. PART 1.—The committee strongly recommend that the names of the rates be reversed, and that the *fifth* rate in the schedule be called *a first rate*, especially as no possible good can be obtained by thus calling things out of their proper names.

They also recommend an extension of the several superficies, as

1st. from	4	squares to		4½	squares.
2nd. „	6	„	„	7	„
3rd. „	8	„	„	10	„
4th. „	10	„	„	12	„
5th. „	12	„	„	15	„

and also two intermediate rates between the second or third, and the third and fourth, so as to permit an addition story to each of these rates, provided the dwelling does not cover more than squares. If the limit of 4 squares was to remain, it would be difficult to arrange the back apartment of a dwelling so as to have a square of flooring.

SCHEDULE C. PART 2.—*Party Walls.*—The committee recommend that the party wall of the lowest rate be reduced half a brick in the second story, and half a brick in the part above the gutter-plate.

In the next rate (*designated the fourth*), but which ought to be called the *second rate*, they recommend the reduction of half a brick in the first and fourth stories.

In the *third rate*, properly so called, they recommend a reduction of half a brick in the second story, and also in the part above the gutter-plate.

In the *fourth rate* (miscalled the *second rate*) they recommend a reduction of half a brick in all the stories.

In the *fifth rate* (miscalled the *first rate*) they recommend in both the stories a reduction of half a brick.

In the *external walls*, they agree in the thicknesses as set out, but with the same objection as to the misnomer in the respective rates.

SCHEDULE C. PART 3.—The committee agree in the several thicknesses, both as to external and party walls, but cannot agree to the misnaming the several rates.

SCHEDULE C. PART 4.—*Openings in party-walls.*—For the words "*six*" and "*eight,*" your committee recommend the words "*seven*" and "*nine.*" And they strongly recommend that the regulation regarding the piers proposed to be built at the openings in party-walls, be entirely taken out, as an useless provision, and for the words "*four feet*" be inserted the words "*one foot.*"

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